Coordinates: 46°12′55″N 6°10′50″E

Bodmer Library

The **Bodmer Foundation** (French: *Fondation Bodmer*) is a library and museum specialised in manuscripts and precious editions. It is located in Cologny, Switzerland just outside Geneva.

Also known as **Bibliotheca Bodmeriana** (or **Bodmer Library**), it is a Swiss heritage site of national significance.[1] The library was established by Martin Bodmer and is famous as the home of the Bodmer Papyri. Some of these papyri are among the oldest remaining copies of the New Testament. Some manuscripts are written in Greek, others in Coptic (e.g. *Papyrus Bodmer III*). The first of the manuscripts was purchased in 1956 (*Papyrus Bodmer II* — P^{66}). It also houses a copy of the Gutenberg Bible.

Bodmer Foundation

Location	Cologny, Canton of Geneva
Coordinates	46°12′55″N 6°10′50″E
Type	library memory institution museum
Heritage designation	class A Swiss cultural property of national significance
Country	Switzerland
Director	Jacques Berchtold
Website	www.fondationbodmer.org (http://www.fondationbodmer.org)

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History

Martin Bodmer established the library in the 1920s. Bodmer selected the works centering on what he saw as the five pillars of world literature: the Bible, Homer, Dante Alighieri, William Shakespeare and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.[2] He prioritized autographs and first editions. 1951 Bodmer had built two neo-baroque houses in Cologny to accommodate the collection.

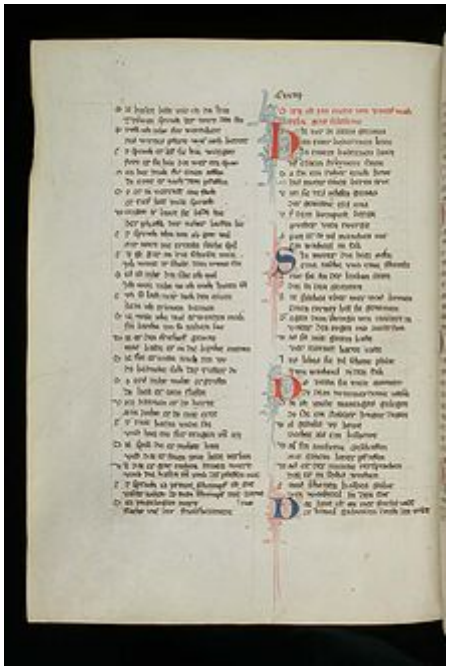
In 1970, shortly before Bodmer's death, the Bodmer Foundation was established to make the collection accessible and conserve it. In 2003 the building was remodelled by Mario Botta. He connected the cellars of the two houses by a two-story underground structure, pierced by light shafts.[3]

Items

The collection comprises some 160,000 items, including Sumerian clay tablets, Greek papyri and handwritten originals including music sheets. He aimed at representing the historical context by adding political, philosophical and scientific items.[2] Some samples are:

- Oldest surviving copy of the Gospel of James
- A Gutenberg Bible, 1452
- First edition print of Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, 1517
- A copy of Newton's *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* once owned by Gottfried Leibniz
- Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's draft manuscript of *Nathan the Wise*, 1778
- Papyrus 66, Papyrus 73 and Papyrus 74
- Original manuscript scroll of *The 120 Days of Sodom* by Marquis de Sade.
- Minuscule 556
- A copy of Shakespeare's First Folio, 1623, in its original binding. Digitised by The Bodmer Lab (http://bodmerlab.unige.ch), this copy is available online (http://webarchive.loc.gov/all/20180201195026/http://bodmerlab.unige.ch/recherche/shakespeare-in-geneva/)

Partial view of the Bodmer Foundation (Cologny, Switzerland).



Example of a 14th-century precious book of the foundation.

Photos

Entrance of the museum

References

1. "Kantonsliste A-Objekte:Geneva" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110928140001/http://www.bevoelkerungsschutz.admin.ch/internet/bs/de/home/themen/kgs/kgs_inventar/a-objekte.parsys.000102.DownloadFile.tmp/ge.pdf) (PDF). *KGS Inventar* (in German). Federal Office of Civil Protection. 2009. Archived from the original (http://www.bevoelkerungsschutz.admin.ch/internet/bs/de/home/themen/kgs/kgs_inventar/a-objekte.parsys.000102.DownloadFile.tmp/ge.pdf) (PDF) on 28 September 2011. Retrieved 12 July 2010.
2. Koch, Hans-Albrecht: Spiegel der Welt: Die Bibliotheca Bodmeriana zu Gast im Schiller-Nationalmuseum / Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach (http://www.aski.org/kb2_00/kb200marbach2a.htm) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20081121222727/http://www.aski.org/kb2_00/kb200marbach2a.htm) 2008-11-21 at the Wayback Machine
3. "Mario Botta: Fondazione Martin Bodmer - Biblioteca e Museo, Cologny" (http://www.botta.ch/Page/Re%202003_353_Bodmer_it%20(Pu).php). Botta.ch. Retrieved 2013-12-29.

Bibliography

- Stella Ghervas, "Manuscrits russes dans la Bibliotheca Bodmeriana," *Corona Nova*, t. II. München, K.G. Saur Verlag, 2003, 101-126.

External links

- **Fondation Martin Bodmer** website (http://www.fondationbodmer.org)—(in French)
- Digitized manuscripts of the library (e-codices) (https://archive.today/20121205235910/http://www.e-codices.ch/bibliotheken/cb/cb_en.htm)

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